

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday we will lay to rest a truly gifted friend, colleague, and public servant, Representative from the California's 37th Congressional District, Juanita Millender-McDonald. So today I would like to pay tribute to her legacy.

In 1997 Glamour Magazine wisely named Congresswoman Millender-McDonald as "one of 11 women who will change the world." And even though she has left us before her time, her very significant and meaningful impact on the world is known.

Although Congresswoman Millender-McDonald has crossed over, her actions will continue to reverberate for us and for generations yet unborn.

We both came to the Congress as a result of special elections in 1996. She came on March 25 and I was sworn in on April 26. As a close colleague, I was proud to see her take the helm of the House Administration Committee, which deemed her the "Mayor of the House of Representatives." And, indeed, she was. In fact, she was the first African American woman to chair a House Committee.

Further, within this committee, she was a leader in addressing issues of voting irregularities and voter disenfranchisement.

I also worked closely with her on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for 11 years. And most recently, as Congress worked with the passage of the SAFETEA-LU bill, a major piece of legislation addressing highways, transit, and other public legislation, she was indeed a strong advocate for her district and for her State.

When I served as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, I asked her to serve as the chairperson of the Annual Legislative Weekend, and she did with class.

2003, the year that she served as head of the Annual Legislative Weekend, was a very difficult year for all of us. The caucus had several issues to confront: Widespread unemployment, the war in Iraq, and coping with the negative effects of the Bush administration policies. Still, amidst these tough times, she led a 4-day conference entitled, "Collective Leadership—Challenging a Bold New World."

That conference reenergized our constituencies to fight for that better world that she fought for every day.

Congresswoman Millender-McDonald changed the world by being a pioneer, and she paved a path for many to follow. She was the first African American woman to serve on the Carson City Council. She was the first to hold the position of chairperson of two very powerful California State Assembly committees, Insurance and Revenue Taxation, in her first term.

Here in Washington she gave a voice to the voiceless by speaking out against genocide in Cambodia, Darfur, and other regions of the world. She also addressed global HIV/AIDS, which was a major issue for her, and she conducted an annual march in her district.

During the 108th Congress, she drafted language that was incorporated into the U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act, which authorized funding to reduce mother-to-child transmissions of HIV/AIDS and gave priority in awarding of funds to organizations focused on family survival.

In the 109th Congress, she introduced legislation to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that would establish a network of pediatric centers in certain developing countries to provide treatment and care for children with HIV/AIDS. She fought tirelessly for women's rights and empowering women to be all that they can be.

As the first Democratic chair of the Congressional Democratic Caucus for Women's Issues, she led the caucus on two groundbreaking meetings, the first with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan to talk about the plight of women globally, and another with the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange to develop strategies for increasing women's investments and net worth.

She also worked to give women who served our country in uniform during wartime the recognition which they richly deserved. In this regard, she initiated the first annual Memorial Day tribute to women in the military at the Women's Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery, and led the fight to secure \$15 million for the maintenance of that memorial.

Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald did indeed change the world, and she will not be forgotten. My prayers go out to her husband and her family.

□ 1300

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. WYNN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PLAN B

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, some years ago I heard someone say that the secret to life is how you handle plan B. That resonated with me because so few things in this world go exactly as planned. Tragically, for the 3,300 American soldiers who have lost their lives in Iraq, there will never be a plan B. And for more than 20,000 other soldiers, plan B, sadly, will include a wheelchair, a prosthetic limb, a serious brain injury, or a lifetime of posttraumatic stress disorder. And the even greater tragedy is that the sacrifices of many of those courageous men and women could have been avoided had President Bush had a plan B in Iraq.

Many of us saw this coming back in 2002. It was evident that the President's team was either so brazenly self-confident or so badly misinformed that they never saw the need for an alternative strategy, and certainly not for an exit strategy. And now, 4 years after "mission accomplished," there is still no plan B coming from the White House, only a transparent appeal to the national pride that we must win, without regard to cost or duration, and without the slightest understanding of what a victory might look like.

Last night, this body took an important step in the Iraq tragedy. We set a new direction for our effort because the President has refused to do so. We not only provided the resources requested by the President to ensure the safety of our troops, we added funding needed to fulfill our obligations to those troops who have been wounded in action, and to the veterans who have sacrificed so much for all of us. But more important, we have provided the framework for bringing our troops home.

Like many of my colleagues, I would have preferred a stronger measure. While I have never advocated a fund